Mr. M. S. Doraswami Aiyangar: Such an arrangement will certainly conduce to efficiency and is resorted to, when maintenance funds are available. But in other cases when special funds are required necessary formalities have to be undergone in the matter of securing funds for construction of roads and culverts.

Construction of the body of Transport buses.

27. * **Mr. James Fletcher** (*Kalkulam and Vilavankod* cum *Neyyattinkara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of buses which had their body constructed under the direct supervision of the Director of State Transport Department; and

(*b*) the average saving by the Department in the cost by such construction of the body compared with the cost when it was done on contract:

Mr. K. Sankaran (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) 28.

(*b*) Rs. 970 per bus.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: May I know, who were the agencies that constructed the body of Transport buses on the contract system?

Mr. K. Sankaran: The contract was given to the Byranshaw Company, Madras.

Mr. T. Krishna Pilai: May I know, why there was so much of disparity in the cost of bus bodies?

Mr. K. Sankaran: That is due to a variety of reasons. The bus bodies built by the Transport Department are of a different design, of a smaller size, and the materials used are of a different variety. Instead of metal plates for the sides of buses cumbrous wood was used. All these contributed to a great saving in the cost.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Then, may I know whether that will not tell upon the durability of the body?

Mr. K. Sankaran: It is considered that bus bodies constructed with cumbrous wood would be sufficiently durable and strong.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai (*Quilon* cum *Kunnathur*): May I know, what prevented these bodies being built by the P. W. D. Workshop?

Mr. K. Sankaran: Certain number of bodies were arranged to be constructed by the P. W. D. Workshop also. These were found to be much more costly than those constructed later on by the Transport Department direct.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: May I know whether tenders were invited for the construction of bus bodies?

Mr. K. Sankaran: Originally, the work was given on contract, after inviting tenders.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: I am asking about the new type of bodies that were constructed recently.

Mr. K. Sankaran: No tenders were invited because it is found from past experience that construction of bodies by the department itself would be considerably cheaper.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: May I know, what harm there would be if tenders are called for for that purpose? Even then the department is not precluded from constructing bodies if it is found to be cheaper.

Mr. K. Sankaran: There is no harm, but the point that was considered was this. Once Government invited tenders for this purpose and their experience was not encouraging.

State Manual.

28. ***Mr. K. M. Kesavan:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the 'State Manual' which is being compiled by *Sadasyatilaka* Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai, has been completed; and

(*b*) if so, when will it be published?

Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It will be ready for publication in Chingom 1116.

Ticket clerk in the Transport Department.

29. ***Mr. K. M. Kesavan:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the ordinary pay of a ticket clerk in the Transport Department;

(*b*) what are the stations where there are ticket clerks;

(*c*) the number of hours during which a ticket clerk is expected to work;

(*d*) whether any clerk drawing higher pay than that of a ticket clerk is deputed to the work of a ticket clerk; and

(*e*) if so, the reason thereof?

Mr. K. Sankaran: (*a*) Rs. 15 per mensem.

(*b*) Trivandrum, Nagercoil, Quilon, Kottarakara and Kottayam.

(*c*) 8 to 10 hours.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) In view of answer to (*d*), this does not arise.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly